

Message Text

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ORIGIN EB-07

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INR-07 LAB-04 NSAE-00 SP-02 TRSE-00 CIEP-02 FRB-01

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APPROVED BY EB/OT/GCP:SAHMAD

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COMMERCE:SPARHAM

AGRICULTURE:BHARPER

STR:BSTEINBOCK

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY KABUL

UNCLAS STATE 195684

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, AF

SUBJECT: AFGHAN REQUEST FOR GSP TREATMENT FOR CERTAIN ITEMS

REF: KABUL A-46

1. PRELIMINARY JUDGMENTS BY BUREAU OF CUSTOMS CLASSIFICATION EXPERTS ARE THAT HAND KNOTTED AFGHAN WOOL RUGS ARE IMPORTED UNDER TSUS ITEMS 360.15, HAND KNOTTED PILE RUGS, AND 361.44, HAND WOVEN FLAT RUGS, AND ARE COVERED BY THE MULTI-FIBER ARRANGEMENT. IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 503(C)(1)(A) OF THE TRADE ACT OF 1974 WHICH PROHIBITS THE PRESIDENT FROM DESIGNATING ANY TEXTILE OR APPAREL ARTICLES WHICH ARE SUBJECT TO TEXTILE AGREEMENTS AS ELIGIBLE FOR GSP, AFGHAN RUGS ARE NOT, THEREFORE, INCLUDED IN THE LIST OF PRODUCTS FOR WHICH GSP TREATMENT IS CURRENTLY UNDER CONSIDERATION.

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2. KARAKUL (PERSIAN LAMB) IS, IN CUSTOM'S JUDGMENT, CLASSIFIED UNDER TSUS ITEM NUMBER 124.25 AND IS UNDER CONSIDERATION FOR GSP.

3. NORMAL TABLE WINES, I.E., STILL WINES PRODUCED FROM GRAPES CONTAINING NOT OVER 14 PERCENT OF ALCOHOL BY VOLUME, ARE CLASSIFIED UNDER TSUS ITEMS 167.30, IN CONTAINERS EACH HOLDING NOT OVER ONE GALLON, AND 167.32, IN CONTAINERS EACH HOLDING OVER ONE GALLON, AND ARE NOT NOW UNDER CONSIDERATION FOR GSP. REDUCTION IN THE CURRENT MFN RATES, I.E., 37.5 CENTS PER GALLON FOR TSUS 167.30 AND 62.5 CENTS PER GALLON FOR TSUS 167.32, MAY BE NEGOTIATED IN THE CURRENT ROUND OF MULTILATERAL TRADE NEGOTIATIONS.

4. MARSALA WINE IS A DESSERT WINE, TRADITIONALLY MADE IN ITALY AND PORTUGAL BUT ALSO NOW PRODUCED DOMESTICALLY, WITH BETWEEN 17 AND 19 PERCENT ALCOHOL BY VOLUME.

5. THE LIST OF PRODUCTS UNDER CONSIDERATION FOR EVENTUAL GSP TREATMENT WAS TRANSMITTED BY THE PRESIDENT TO THE INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION ON MARCH 24, 1975, FOR ANALYSIS OF THE POTENTIAL DOMESTIC ECONOMIC IMPACT OF THEIR RECEIVING DUTY-FREE STATUS. THIS LIST WAS DRAWN UP AFTER CONSIDERATION OF THE PRODUCT REQUESTS OF MANY DEVELOPING NATIONS. THE ITC ANALYSIS HAS BEEN COMPLETED AND INTERAGENCY REVIEW IS UNDERWAY WITH REGARD TO THE FINAL LIST TO BE RECOMMENDED TO THE PRESIDENT.

6. IT IS NOT, THEREFORE, POSSIBLE AT THIS TIME TO ENTERTAIN SUGGESTIONS FOR ADDITIONS TO THE PRODUCT COVERAGE OF THE GSP. HOWEVER, THE USG DOES RECOGNIZE THE IMPORTANCE OF REVIEWING ITS GSP AFTER IT IS IN EFFECT AND GIVING CONTINUING AND CAREFUL CONSIDERATION TO ALL ADDITIONAL REQUESTS WHENEVER CHANGES IN THE PRODUCT COVERAGE THE GSP ARE CONTEMPLATED.

7. AT POST'S DISCRETION, ANY OF THE ABOVE MAY BE TRANSMITTED TO THE GOA IN RESPONSE TO THE LETTER ATTACHED TO REFAIR. IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT THE PRESIDENT HAS NOT UNCLASSIFIED

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YET MADE A FINAL DETERMINATION AS TO THE PREVIOUSLY RECOMMENDED PRODUCTS WHICH WILL BE COVERED BY THE U.S. GENERALIZED SYSTEM OF PREFERENCES BUT WE HOPE SUCH A DETERMINATION WILL BE MADE SOME TIME LATER THIS YEAR. SISCO

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